**Primarily Teaching Grant Lesson Plan**

**Name**: Kyle C. Engdahl

**Title:**A Primarily Electoral Focus

**Grade-Level:** 11-12th Grade

**Subject Area:** American Government

**Topic:** Electoral College

**Standards:**

1. Understand ways citizens participate in the political process at local, state, and national levels.
2. Understand the concepts of constitutional government as fundamental principles of American democracy.
3. Understand the basic concepts of a federal system of government.
4. Understand the concept of civic responsibility.

**Compelling Question:** Why does the United States use an “electoral college” to select the President and why is the 225 year-old body still a controversy in 2014?

**Learning Objectives:**

* The Students Will explain the basic process of selecting the President of the United States.
* The Students Will evaluate motives for maintaining or changing the Electoral College.
* The Students Will identify & rank alternatives to the Electoral College.

**Resource Table Materials:**

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| **Source** | **Description** | **Citation** | **URL** |
| Macintosh HD:Users:teacher:Desktop:The day book., January 13, 1913, Image 4.png | Screen grab of “The Day Book” from January 1913, highlighting the “formal election” via the Electoral College. | *The day book.* (Chicago, Ill.), 13 Jan. 1913. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045487/1913-01-13/ed-1/seq-4/>> | <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045487/1913-01-13/ed-1/seq-4/>  |
|  | Front page of Puck depicting Uncle Sam & William Jennings Bryan at a luncheon of the Electoral College, satirizing it as if it was an educational institution, in the run up to the 1908 campaign.  | Glackens, L.M. “On the Electoral College Campus.” *Puck.* 12 June, 1907. *<*<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2011647210/>> | <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2011647210/>  |
| Macintosh HD:Users:teacher:Desktop:Screen Shot 2014-08-17 at 10.23.17 PM.png | 270 to win is a “an interactive Electoral College map for 2012 and a history of Presidential elections in the United States” – also used to project into the 2016 election. | 270towin.com, (2014). *2016 Presidential Election Interactive Map and History of the Electoral College*. [online] Available at: http://www.270towin.com [Accessed 18 Aug. 2014]. | <http://www.270towin.com> |
|  | From the National Archives, a reference source on the Electoral College for students. | Archives.gov, (2014). *U. S. Electoral College: Frequently Asked Questions*. [online] Available at: http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/faq.html [Accessed 18 Aug. 2014]. | <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/faq.html>  |
|  | Examines the year of 2009 as a modern exemplar of the controversies surrounding the Electoral College. | Neale, Thomas H. “The Electoral College: Reform Proposals in the 109th Congress.” Congressional Research Service. 12 March, 2007. < http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/82468.pdf> | <http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/82468.pdf>  |
|  | Highlighting the tension of the 1876 election, this image from Frank Leslie’s Illustrated, shows the backroom deals that are part of the controversy of the election of Rutherford B. Hayes. | “Washington, D.C.--the Electoral Commission holding a secret session by candle-light, on the Louisiana question, February 16th.” *Frank Leslie's illustrated Newspaper*, v. 44, no. 1119, March 10, 1877, p. 9. Available at: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/89712291/>. Accessed 17 August 2014. | <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/89712291/>  |
|  | House Joint Resolution 25, from the 107th Congress, by Iowa’s own Jim Leach (R).  | *H.J.Res.25 - 107th Congress (2001-2002): Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to abolish the electoral college and establish a new procedure for electing the President and Vice President.* Available at: <https://beta.congress.gov/bill/107th-congress/house-joint-resolution/25?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22Proposing+an+amendment+to+the+Constitution+of+the+United+States+to+abolish+the+Electoral+Colleg%22%5D%7D> [Accessed 18 Aug. 2014]. | <https://beta.congress.gov/bill/107th-congress/house-joint-resolution/25?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22Proposing+an+amendment+to+the+Constitution+of+the+United+States+to+abolish+the+Electoral+Colleg%22%5D%7D>  |
| Macintosh HD:Users:teacher:Desktop:Screen Shot 2014-08-17 at 11.18.27 PM.png | The entire collection of Herb Block editorial cartoons, of which quite a few pertain to his criticisms of the Electoral College. {Example to the left was printed nationally & is a screen grab from rom the *Wichita Daily Times* of Wichita Falls, Texas on July 29, 1948.} | LOC.gov, (2014). *Cartoon Drawings: Herblock Collection.* Available at: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hlb/> [Accessed 18 Aug. 2014]. | <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hlb/> |
|  | Data and analysis from Gallup regarding public opinion in the United States regarding the Electoral College. | “*Americans Would Swap Electoral College for Popular Vote*.” Gallup.com. Available at: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/150245/americans-swap-electoral-college-popular-vote.aspx> [Accessed 20 Aug. 2014]. | <http://www.gallup.com/poll/150245/americans-swap-electoral-college-popular-vote.aspx> |

**Procedure:**

1. Notes covering the basic structure, past, & controversy of the Electoral College
* Includes “I-Spy” class discussion of images/cartoons listed above
1. Group work to analyze election data from the website 270towin.com
* 4 groups picking 4 different elections for compare/contrast of electoral vs. popular vote results
1. Group work to brainstorm alternatives & analyze proposed reforms
* Excerpted sections from The Electoral College: Reform Proposals in the 109th Congress” will be distributed
* Utilize National Archives FAQ and other online sources for additional information
* Student groups must post THREE unique sources at <http://padlet.com/engdkyl/gov>
* Groups must include the web address & a statement of what knowledge they gained from said source
1. Assign individual reading/response
* Read Gallup article & compose a 350 word response including your opinion of the Electoral College and supported position of what should happen to the College

**Assessment:**

* *Informal*: Group & Individual observations, including participation/cooperation/originality
* *Formal*: Padlet Quest & Reading Response